<u>Amendments to the Claims:</u> This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

- (Currently Amended) An exhaust system for a diesel engine, which system-comprising comprises a NO_x-trap comprising at least one first NO_x absorbent and platinum, characterised in that; and
 - at least one second NO_x absorbent consisting essentially of <u>at least one of alumina</u> and/or and ceria-is disposed upstream of the first NO_x -trap.
- 2. (Original) An exhaust system according to claim 1, wherein the first NO_x -absorbent is selected from the group consisting of alkaline earth metal compounds, alkali metal compounds, rare earth metal compounds and mixtures of any two or more thereof.
- (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim 2, wherein the or each alkaline earth metal <u>compounds</u> is selected from the group consisting of barium, magnesium, strontium and calcium.
- 4. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim 2, wherein the or each alkali metal <u>compounds</u> is selected from the group consisting of potassium and caesium.
- (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim 2, wherein the or each rare earth metal <u>compounds</u> is selected from the group consisting of cerium, yttrium, lanthanum and praseodymium.
- 6. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim 2, 3, 4 or 5, wherein the or each alkaline earth metal-compounds the or each alkali metal-compound compounds or the or each rare earth metal-compound compounds is supported on a support material.
- 7. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim 6, wherein the or each support is selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica, titania, zirconia, ceria and mixtures or a composite oxide of any two or more thereof.
- 8. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim-6_2, wherein the first NO_x absorbent-comprises the support is a support for the platinum.

- 9. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to any preceding claim, 1 further comprising a catalyst for oxidising NO to NO₂ disposed between the at least one second NO_x absorbent and the NO_x-trap.
- 10. (Original) An exhaust system according to claim 9, wherein the NO oxidation catalyst is platinum on an alumina support.
- 11. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to claim 9-or 10, further comprising a particulate filter disposed between the oxidation catalyst and the NO_x -trap.
- 12. An exhaust system according to any of claims 1 to 10 claim 1, wherein the NO_x-trap further comprises a particulate filter.
- 13. An exhaust system according to any preceding claim, 1 further comprising a catalyst comprising a catalyst component for oxidising hydrocarbon and carbon monoxide to water and carbon dioxide and an oxygen storage component, which wherein the catalyst is disposed downstream of the NO_x-trap.
- 14. (Original) An exhaust system according to claim 13, wherein the oxidation catalyst comprises platinum or palladium supported on a bulk ceria-zirconia mixed oxide oxygenation storage component.
- 15. (Currently Amended) A diesel engine comprising an exhaust system according to any preceding claim 1.
- 16. (Original) A light-duty diesel engine according to claim 15.
- 17. (Currently Amended) An engine according to claim $15 \cdot \text{or } 16$, comprising an engine control unit, when in use, intermittently to adjust the exhaust gas composition to the rich side for regenerating the at least one first NO_x absorbent.
- 18. (Currently Amended) A flow-through substrate comprising: a NO_x-trap comprising a first zone coated with a composition comprising at least one first NO_x absorbent and platinum, and a second zone coated with a composition comprising at least one second NO_x-absorbent, which at least one second NO_x absorbent-consisting consists essentially of alumina and/or ceria.

- 19. (Currently Amended) A method of treating NO_x in the exhaust gas of a diesel engine, which method comprising:
 - (i) absorbing NO_x from lean exhaust gas in at least one second NO_x absorbent consisting essentially of alumina and/or ceria, when a downstream NO_x-trap comprising at least one first NO_x absorbent and platinum is inactive for reducing NO_x using a suitable reductant;
 - (ii) thermally desorbing stored- NO_x from the at least one second NO_x absorbent; and
 - (iii) reducing NO_x on the <u>downstream</u> NO_x -trap using a suitable reductant.
- 20. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 19_7 <u>further comprising the step</u> between steps (i) and (ii) of adsorbing NO_x on the at least one <u>first second NO_x</u> absorbent <u>of the downstream NO_x-trap</u>.